

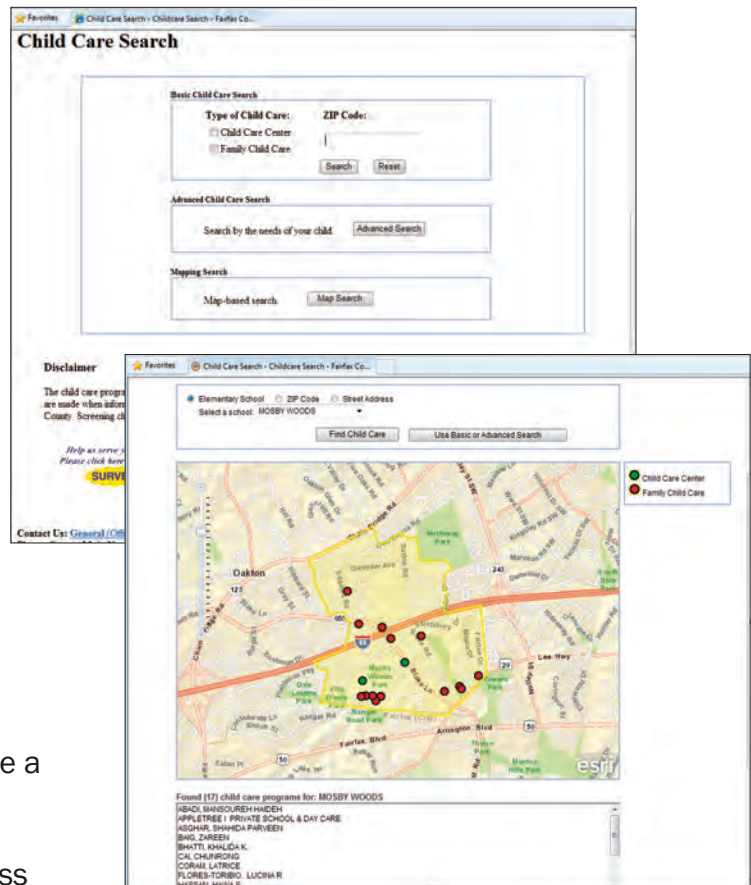
GIS-Enhanced Child Care Search

One of the most popular items on the Office for Children's website is our database of regulated Fairfax County child care programs. Each month, the online child care search is accessed more than 3,000 times.

Residents can now perform three types of searches. The first is a basic search for child care programs within a specified ZIP code. The second is a search based on the needs of the family, such as after-hours or weekend child care.

The third option is new. OFC partnered with the Department of Information Technology and their Geographic Information Systems branch to create a new map-based child care search.

With this option, parents can type a street address



into a search box and specify a radius around that address – such as one, two or five miles – within which they're seeking child care. The search results are shown on a map, with green dots representing child care centers and red dots representing family child care providers. Contact information for each program is provided.

"We are pleased to offer this new tool to help families who are looking for child care," says Child Care Assistance and Referral program director **Carol Keil**.

Lois Leaves for Loudoun

The Office for Children's Manager of Marketing and Strategic Analysis, **Lois Kirkpatrick**, has left OFC to become the Marketing and Communications Manager for the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development.

Kirkpatrick joined OFC in May 2007, after working as a public information officer for the Fairfax County Public Library, the Office of Public-Private Partnerships, and the Department of Tax Administration. Prior to her county employment, **Kirkpatrick** worked for private and nonprofit organizations.

"It has been a real privilege to work with so many smart, talented and fun people in OFC!" **Kirkpatrick** said. "The work you do is so very important, and you actually change lives. You don't just impact Fairfax County families today; through their children you're making a difference into the future."

"Lois brought OFC into the social media realm, and enhanced the quality of OFC's publications and media relations," said OFC Director **Anne-Marie Twohie**. "We will miss her communications expertise on our senior management team."



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From InfoWeb to FairfaxNet



In March 2011, the county launched FairfaxNet, which is an employees-only intranet. So far, nine county agencies have migrated their departments' content from the InfoWeb to FairfaxNet. Of the 27 InfoWeb sites remaining, the Department of Family Services is

one of the next agencies in line to migrate to the new platform. The transition is expected to be completed within a year.

When OFC's new site goes live, it will have the same design and structure as the other county FairfaxNet pages. Its features will include:

- A more robust search function, which will help you find content more easily;
- The "My FairfaxNet" tab, which will allow you to keep track of OFC content you visit frequently;
- An "email this page" button, which makes it easy to share information with coworkers;

- A calendar from which you can export events to your own Outlook calendar;
- Page alerts, which notify you when important OFC content has been updated;
- A notes section, where you can leave comments about the content that other employees can read;
- An "I Like It" link.

You will not need any special software or equipment to use OFC's FairfaxNet site. Employees who can access OFC's InfoWeb site now will be able to use the new site also.

In the future, FairfaxNet will also allow employees to collaborate across county agencies.

SACC Hosts Community Appreciation Lunch

The School Age Child Care center at Hollin Meadows recently hosted SACC Café, a special restaurant experience staffed by the children. Local public safety personnel were invited to the event, along with school and county government employees.

Center Supervisor **Steve Miller** started SACC Café several years ago at the Crestwood SACC center, and continued the tradition when he moved to Groveton. This was the first year Hollin Meadows hosted SACC Café.

“Each year has gotten a little bigger and better,” **Miller** explains. In addition to performing cooking, serving and management responsibilities, the children designed the menus, place mats and t-shirts.

“It gives our children an idea of what it’s like to open a business and make it successful,” **Miller** says.

When guests arrived, they received \$10 in “SACC money.” At the end of the meal, children gave each diner a check. “This allowed the children to understand what it would be like to use real money,” **Miller** said.

In his thank-you note, Fairfax County Police Chief **Dave Rohrer** wrote, “It was a great opportunity for us to interact with the students, and I thought they all did a wonderful job of both hosting and serving.”



Bowler Visits ECCC

Each quarter, Department of Family Services employees are invited to a briefing where Director **Nannette Bowler** answers questions and talks about agency-wide issues. Following each briefing, **Bowler** “walks a mile” in the shoes of a front-line employee to learn about the day-to-day work of division programs. After her latest briefing, Bowler visited the Office for Children’s Employees’ Child Care Center.

The ECCC serves children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, and provides learning experiences that support each child’s development and the skills they will need throughout their lives.

“Our staff and children enjoyed meeting **Nannette**, and we were very pleased to give her a brief overview



and tour of our program,” said ECCC Director **Asria Rafiqzad**.



Realistic Job Preview

The Office for Children is participating in the county’s Realistic Job Preview project, a new initiative launched by Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison and the human services leadership team.

The project will give employees in human services agencies a chance to learn about positions that may become available in the next few years. The goal is to inform employees about the knowledge, skills and abilities that will be needed in those positions, so that they can use the information to better manage their professional development toward their desired career goals.

Over the coming months, various human services agencies will host job previews for selected positions. There will not be a preview for every human services job. For the pilot, OFC will preview the School Age Child Care regional supervisor position.

“There are 16 SACC regional supervisors, and a number of them will be eligible to retire in the next three years. There may be a number of SACC teachers, and employees from other human services agencies, who aspire to become regional supervisors. This is an opportunity for them to learn about the job qualifications and the complexity of these positions,” explains SACC Program Manager **Tony Humphrey**.

A workshop will be held on March 27 to give interested employees an overview of the SACC regional supervisor position. Information about how to register for other human services job previews will be emailed to employees in the coming weeks.



Office for Children

This employee newsletter is published by the Office for Children, a division of the Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services. If you have any questions, contact Amy Carlini at 703-324-7758 or Nancy McDonough at 703-324-8042. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc.



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